

*Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education***Cohort 2010 Five-Year Graduation Rates – State Results**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) calculates and reports graduation rates as part of overall efforts to improve educational outcomes for all students. In addition, reporting graduation rates is required under Title I of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The 2010 five-year cohort graduation rate is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{\# of students in cohort (denominator) who graduate in 5 years or less}}{[\text{\# of 1st time entering 9th graders in 2006-07}] - \text{transfers out/deaths} + \text{transfers in}}$$

The 2010 five-year cohort graduation rate for Massachusetts public high schools was 84.7 percent which represented an increase of 2.6 percentage points from the four-year rate for the 2010 cohort and is the highest five-year graduation rate since 2007. The 2010 five-year rate increased by 0.7 percentage points when compared to the 2009 cohort five-year rate of 84.0. This increase as compared to the 2009 cohort five-year rate is the largest since the ESE began to calculate five-year graduation rates in 2007.¹

All student subgroups had higher 2010 five-year rates as compared to the 2010 four-year rates, including students with limited English proficiency and African American students, who achieved the largest gains of 5.9 and 5.0 percentage points respectively. While significant gaps in the graduation rates among different subgroups remain, the additional year did narrow the margin between the highest and lowest racial and ethnic groups (White and Hispanic) from 26.6 percentage points at the end of four years to 23.6 percentage points after five years.

Additional critical findings of the report include:

- African American males graduated at a rate that was 6.0 percentage points higher than their four-year rate and represented the largest increase of the major race/gender combinations.
- Students with limited English proficiency increased their five-year rate by 5.9 percentage points as compared to their four-year rate. In addition, students with limited English proficiency that were not in the original cohort on October 1, 2005 graduated at a rate that was 8.5 percentage points higher than their four-year rate.
- Students receiving special education services had a five-year rate that was 4.6 percentage points higher than their four-year rate.

¹ The decrease in the five-year graduation rate for the 2009 cohort is partially attributable to a change in the Competency Determination standards for all 2010 graduates. The new standard included reaching the proficiency threshold of the English Language Arts and Mathematics sections and the Needs Improvement threshold of the Science section of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System. Additional information on the new standards can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr30.html?section=03>.

The following tables further summarize the five-year results for the 2010 cohort. The results are based on data submitted by school districts through the Department's Student Information Management System.

Table 1. Graduation Results for All Students and Student Subgroups²

		Graduates		Non-Graduates³				
	2010 Cohort # ⁴	5-Year Rate	2010 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer ⁵	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
All Students	76,308	84.7%	+2.6	2.1%	2.0%	2.6%	8.6%	0.1%
Female	37,399	87.0%	+1.9	1.6%	1.7%	2.5%	7.1%	0.0%
Male	38,909	82.4%	+3.2	2.5%	2.2%	2.8%	10.0%	0.2%
LEP ⁶	4,326	63.7%	+5.9	4.1%	8.2%	1.1%	22.7%	0.2%
Special Education	14,714	68.6%	+4.6	8.0%	4.7%	2.8%	15.9%	0.1%
Low Income	29,398	72.3%	+4.4	3.3%	3.9%	4.1%	16.2%	0.2%
African American	6,954	73.5%	+5.0	4.4%	4.4%	2.9%	14.6%	0.2%
Asian	3,596	89.4%	+2.5	1.3%	2.3%	1.6%	5.3%	0.1%
Hispanic	10,469	65.9%	+4.8	3.7%	4.9%	4.0%	21.2%	0.2%
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	1,170	81.6%	+1.9	2.5%	2.9%	3.8%	9.1%	0.0%
Native American	218	80.3%	+4.2	1.8%	1.8%	2.8%	13.3%	0.0%
Pacific Islander	107	74.8%	+2.8	5.6%	5.6%	1.9%	12.1%	0.0%
White	53,794	89.5%	+1.8	1.5%	1.0%	2.4%	5.5%	0.1%
Urban	26,268	71.8%	+4.6	3.4%	4.1%	4.0%	16.5%	0.2%

² Due to rounding, row percentages may not equal 100 percent.

³ In the reporting of aggregate results, students are included in the first column (from left to right) for which they qualify. For example, students who dropped out or were expelled, but earned a GED, are included in the GED category. Students are only reported in one category.

⁴ The cohort count is as of the end of 2009-10 school year. The status (e.g. graduate, enrolled) is updated as of October 1, 2011.

⁵ Non-Grad Completer includes 1) students who earned a certificate of attainment, 2) students who met local graduation requirements but the district does not offer certificates of attainment, and 3) students with special needs who reached the maximum age (22) but did not graduate.

⁶ The limited English proficient, special education, and low income subgroups include all students that were reported in those categories at least once in high school. Students can be counted in more than one group.

Table 2. Graduation Results for Race/Ethnicity Groups by Gender

	2010 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		5-Year Rate	2010 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
African American Female	3,473	77.7%	+4.0	3.8%	3.7%	2.4%	12.4%	0.1%
African American Male	3,481	69.3%	+6.0	5.1%	5.1%	3.3%	16.8%	0.4%
Asian Female	1,778	92.1%	+2.1	0.6%	2.1%	1.3%	3.8%	0.1%
Asian Male	1,818	86.9%	+3.0	2.0%	2.4%	1.8%	6.8%	0.2%
Hispanic Female	5,101	70.8%	+4.1	2.9%	4.4%	4.0%	17.8%	0.1%
Hispanic Male	5,368	61.2%	+5.4	4.5%	5.4%	4.0%	24.5%	0.3%
Multi-race Female	586	86.3%	+2.2	1.9%	2.4%	2.7%	6.7%	0.0%
Multi-race Male	584	76.9%	+1.6	3.1%	3.4%	5.0%	11.6%	0.0%
Native American Female	113	83.2%	+1.8	0.9%	0.0%	3.5%	12.4%	0.0%
Native American Male	105	77.1%	+6.6	2.9%	3.8%	1.9%	14.3%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Female	55	74.5%	+3.6	9.1%	3.6%	3.6%	9.1%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Male	52	75.0%	+1.9	1.9%	7.7%	0.0%	15.4%	0.0%
White Female	26,293	91.2%	+1.3	1.1%	0.9%	2.3%	4.5%	0.0%
White Male	27,501	88.0%	+2.4	1.8%	1.1%	2.5%	6.5%	0.1%

Table 3. Graduation Results for Students Receiving Special Education Services by Gender

		Graduates		Non-Graduates				
	2010 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2010 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
Special Ed. Female	5,477	70.2%	+3.9	7.6%	4.6%	3.0%	14.5%	0.1%
Special Ed. Male	9,237	67.6%	+5.0	8.2%	4.7%	2.7%	16.7%	0.1%

Table 4. Graduation Results for Low-Income Students by Gender

		Graduates		Non-Graduates				
	2010 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2010 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
Low-Income Female	14,389	76.2%	+3.7	2.6%	3.5%	4.0%	13.6%	0.1%
Low-Income Male	15,009	68.5%	+5.1	4.0%	4.3%	4.2%	18.7%	0.3%

Table 5. Graduation Results for Limited English Proficient Students

		Graduates		Non-Graduates				
	2010 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2010 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
LEP Female	1,963	68.4%	+5.4	3.5%	8.1%	1.1%	18.9%	0.0%
LEP Male	2,363	59.8%	+6.4	4.6%	8.3%	1.1%	25.9%	0.3%
LEP in Original Cohort	2,813	65.1%	+4.6	3.7%	6.7%	1.4%	22.9%	0.2%
LEP Entered Cohort after 10/1/05	1,513	61.1%	+8.5	4.9%	11.0%	0.5%	22.3%	0.2%

Table 6. Graduation Results for Race/Ethnicity by Limited English Proficient Status

		Graduates		Non-Graduates				
	2010 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2010 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
African American LEP	823	69.1%	+8.9	5.2%	10.4%	0.4%	14.7%	0.1%
African American Non-LEP	6,131	74.1%	+4.5	4.3%	3.6%	3.2%	14.6%	0.2%
Asian LEP	711	82.3%	+6.2	1.5%	6.6%	0.6%	9.0%	0.0%
Asian Non-LEP	2,885	91.2%	+1.6	1.3%	1.2%	1.8%	4.4%	0.1%
Hispanic LEP	2,272	53.8%	+5.1	4.8%	8.8%	1.3%	30.9%	0.3%
Hispanic Non-LEP	8,197	69.2%	+4.7	3.4%	3.8%	4.8%	18.6%	0.2%
Multi-race LEP	30	63.3%	+6.6	3.3%	6.7%	0.0%	26.7%	0.0%
Multi-race Non-LEP	1,139	82.1%	+1.8	2.5%	2.8%	3.9%	8.7%	0.0%
Native American LEP	7	57.1%	+0.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	42.9%	0.0%
Native American Non-LEP	211	81.0%	+4.2	1.9%	1.9%	2.8%	12.3%	0.0%
Pacific-Islander LEP	9	77.8%	+0.0	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Non-LEP	98	74.5%	+3.1	5.1%	6.1%	2.0%	12.2%	0.0%
White LEP	474	73.6%	+4.4	2.5%	4.4%	1.9%	17.5%	0.0%
White Non-LEP	53,320	89.7%	+1.8	1.5%	1.0%	2.4%	5.4%	0.1%

Table 7. Graduation Results for Non-Mobile and Mobile Students⁷

High Schools Attended	2010 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		5-Year Rate	2010 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
One School	64,306	87.7%	+1.9	1.8%	1.5%	2.0%	6.9%	0.1%
Two Schools	10,309	72.0%	+5.6	3.2%	4.4%	5.6%	15.6%	0.2%
Three Schools	1,349	50.2%	+10.5	5.6%	6.8%	9.3%	27.7%	0.4%
Four or More Schools	344	35.8%	+7.3	8.1%	8.1%	11.9%	35.2%	0.9%

Table 8. Competency Determination (CD) Status for Select Non-Graduate Groups

	Still in School			Dropped Out		
	Number	CD	No CD	Number	CD	No CD
All Students	1,575	29.8%	70.2%	8,508	26.5%	73.5%
Female	593	26.5%	73.5%	3,582	26.7%	73.3%
Male	982	31.9%	68.1%	4,926	26.3%	73.7%
LEP	178	23.0%	77.0%	1,028	8.4%	91.6%
Special Education	1,171	18.0%	82.0%	2,749	21.3%	78.7%
Low Income	972	34.6%	65.4%	5,939	22.5%	77.5%
African American	307	32.6%	67.4%	1,211	18.5%	81.5%
Asian	48	27.1%	72.9%	245	25.7%	74.3%
Hispanic	389	34.4%	65.6%	2,635	15.8%	84.2%
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	29	27.6%	72.4%	151	29.1%	70.9%
Native American	Less than 6			35	28.6%	71.4%
Pacific Islander	6	33.3%	66.7%	15	40.0%	60.0%
White	792	26.9%	73.1%	4,216	35.3%	64.7%

⁷ Mobility refers to the number of different high schools that the student attended within the Commonwealth. Students who never moved or moved in from another state or a private school and attended one public high school in Massachusetts are represented in the “One School” row.

Table 9. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Districts⁸

2010 Five-Year Graduation Rate	Number of Districts	Percentage of Districts
< 50%	3	1.1
50 - <60%	6	2.1
60 - <70%	5	1.8
70 - <80%	31	10.9
80 - <85%	32	11.3
85 - <90%	52	18.3
90 - <95%	83	29.2
95 – 100%	72	25.4
Total	284	100

Table 10. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Schools⁹

2010 Five-Year Graduation Rate	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
< 50%	27	7.5
50 - <60%	9	2.5
60 - <70%	21	5.8
70 - <80%	37	10.3
80 - <85%	37	10.3
85 - <90%	52	14.4
90 - <95%	87	24.2
95 – 100%	90	25.0
Total	360	100

⁸ Includes districts with at least six students in the cohort. District analyses include charter schools, regional school districts and vocational/technical high schools.

⁹ Includes schools with at least six students in the cohort